

**Amendments to the Claims:****CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A stabilized earth structure comprising:

a fill with a front face;

a facing along said front face;

main stabilizing bands disconnected from the facing and extending through a first stabilized zone of the fill for stabilizing said first zone of said fill, said bands situated separate from, spaced from and behind said facing;

secondary stabilizing members connected to the facing and extending in a second stabilized zone of the fill stabilized by friction between the stabilizing members and said second zone of said fill, said second zone extending between the front face and partially into said first zone which has, with said first stabilized zone, a common part where loads are transmitted between the main stabilizing bands and the secondary members by only the material of the fill.

2. (Currently Amended). A structure according to Claim 1, wherein the secondary members extend into the fill up to a distance substantially shorter than the main stabilizing bands strips, with respect to the front face.

3. (Previously Presented). A structure according to Claim 1, wherein the facing comprises prefabricated elements in which the secondary members are partly embedded.

4. (Previously Presented). A structure according to Claim 3, wherein the prefabricated elements are made of concrete and the secondary members comprise flexible synthetic stabilizing members each having at least one part cast into the concrete of one of the prefabricated elements.

5. (Previously Presented). A structure according to Claim 1, wherein the facing comprises prefabricated elements each having at least one projecting portion forming one of the secondary members.

6. (Cancelled).

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7. (Previously Presented). A method for building a stabilized earth structure, comprising the steps of:

positioning a facing along a front face of the structure delimiting a volume to be filled,

placing main mechanically stabilizing bands in a first zone of said volume, wherein the main stabilizing bands are not permanently connected to the facing and extend through the first zone,

placing secondary mechanically stabilizing members connected to the facing in a second zone of said volume, said first and second zones having a part in common, and

introducing fill material into said volume and compacting the fill material, whereby once the fill material has been introduced and compacted, loads are transmitted between the main stabilizing bands and the secondary members by only the fill material situated in said common part and each zone is mechanically stabilized by the stabilizing members or bands therein.

8. (Previously Presented). A method according to Claim 7, wherein the secondary members are installed up to a distance substantially shorter than the main stabilizing bands with respect to the front face.

9. (Previously Presented). A method according to Claim 7, wherein the facing comprises prefabricated elements incorporating secondary members.

10. (Previously Presented). A method according to Claim 9, wherein the prefabricated elements are made of concrete and the secondary members comprise synthetic flexible stabilizing members each having at least one part cast into the concrete of one of the prefabricated elements.

11. (Previously Presented). A method according to Claim 9, wherein at least some of the prefabricated elements have at least one projecting portion forming one of the secondary elements.

12. (Previously Presented). A method according to Claim 10, wherein the cast part of said flexible synthetic stabilizing member follows a loop within said one of the prefabricated

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elements, so that said flexible synthetic stabilizing member has two sections projecting into the second zone of the fill.

13. (Previously Presented). The method as claimed in Claim 7, wherein the step of placing the main stabilizing bands comprises arranging the main stabilizing bands along zigzag paths in the first zone.

14. (Previously Presented). The method as claimed in Claim 7, further comprising the step of determining independently an optimal configuration and density of the main stabilizing bands in said first zone and an optimal configuration and density of the secondary members in said second zone.

15. (Previously Presented). The method as claimed in Claim 7, further comprising the step of connecting at least some of the main stabilizing bands to the facing by means of temporary attachments designed to break in the step of introducing and compacting the fill material.

16. (Previously Presented). The structure as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the cast part of said flexible synthetic stabilizing member follows a loop within said one of the prefabricated elements, so that said flexible synthetic stabilizing member has two sections projecting into the second zone of the fill.

17. (Previously Presented). The structure as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the flexible synthetic stabilizing members are bands.

18. (Previously Presented). The structure as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the main stabilizing bands are arranged along zigzag paths in the first zone.

19. (Cancelled).

20. (Cancelled).

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